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Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

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Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

List of issues and questions in relation to the combined eighth and ninth periodic reports of El Salvador

Addendum

Replies by El Salvador*

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Note: The present document is being circulated in Spanish, French and English only.
* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

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Importance attached to the Convention and ratification of the Optional Protocol

1. With the entry into force of the Equality, Equity and Eradication of Discrimination against Women Act, LIE, in 2011, and the Comprehensive Special Act for a Life Free from Violence for Women, LEIV, in 2012, the Salvadoran State has taken major steps to design and implement public policies and measures promoting progress toward substantive equality and expressing the Salvadoran State's profound commitment and political will to develop guarantees of equality and eradicate discrimination against women.

2. To date, there is nothing to add to the information provided in the combined eighth and ninth report. The Government of El Salvador acknowledges the obstacles it faces due to non-ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention and the reservation entered in respect of article 29.1 of the Convention, and it expresses its resolute desire to promote the ratification process so as to ensure full implementation of the Convention and achieve equality between women and men.

Legal status of the Convention and alignment of domestic legislation

3. With the entry into force of the LIE and LEIV, the following reforms have been adopted: the General Education Act and the Teaching Career Act, aimed at helping to identify and prevent gender violence within the educational system, and the Protocol on procedures to be followed to denounce or report cases of sexual violence in schools.

4. Studies are being conducted with a view to amending the Penal Code in respect of the offences characterized under "Article 201. — Failure to comply with financial assistance obligations" and "Article 338-A. — Disobedience in domestic violence cases" in such a way as to strengthen protection of women and children from physical, psychological and financial violence. An amendment to the Code of Criminal Procedure is also being analysed, whereby an article (16-B) may be added to provide that interpretation of the Code must be comprehensive and in keeping with the LEIV and LIE.

5. An amendment to article 10 of the Domestic Violence Act envisages extending the period for which protective measures are provided for women victims and their families and authorizing the National Civilian Police (PNC) to order the aggressor to stay away from the family home for up to 48 hours.

6. Also envisaged is an amendment to articles 129 and 155 of the Penal Code, establishing motivation based on hatred of sexual orientation and gender identity as an aggravating factor in murder cases that raises the punishment from 30 to 50 years' imprisonment. The amendment also criminalizes threats motivated by hatred of a victim's sexual orientation and gender identity and expression.

7. In 2012, the Office of the Attorney General approved the Protocol of Procedures for Investigating Femicide designed to provide guidelines for public prosecutors, police investigators and forensic physicians on how to handle crime scenes involving murdered women that may be cases of femicide. In 2016, the Office appointed a team of specialists to formulate a criminal prosecution policy for cases of violence against women, in accordance with article 56 of the LEIV.

8. In December 2016, the Ministry of Health submitted a sexual and reproductive health bill to the Legislative Assembly, which seeks to establish guidelines for healthcare and educational institutions and other public or private bodies active in the field of sexual and reproductive health care, prevention and promotion.

9. Pursuant to article 144 of the Constitution of the Republic, treaties ratified by El Salvador are embodied in national legislation and their provisions may be applied by judges in the cases they hear.

10. Due to the fact that the database containing records of all Supreme Court judgments is not yet complete, only 29 judgments have been identified that show how judges have evoked such provisions in their judgments. See the breakdown in annex 1.

11. In order to enhance the trying and punishment of the offences contemplated in the LEIV, in February 2016, the Legislative Assembly adopted Decree 286, which establishes Specialized Courts[1] for a Life Free from Violence and Discrimination against Women, to start operating as of January 2017, with competence to hear cases involving the offences established in the LEIV, denunciations and reports based on the Domestic Violence Act; monitoring and oversight of precautionary and protection measures established in the LEIV and LIE; labour discrimination cases, and violations of the right to equality.

12. As reported already to various Committees in the United Nations system, article 1 of the Constitution of El Salvador "recognizes as a human person every human being from the moment of conception". Given the decision by the Legislature in 1997 to impose an absolute ban on abortion, the Government of El Salvador acknowledges the restrictions this places on the full enjoyment and exercise of the sexual and reproductive rights of Salvadoran women. Despite the legislative restriction, the Government of El Salvador declares its commitment to guaranteeing women's human rights and, within the framework of the law, has fostered important public policy measures, including, in particular, advances in the field of sexual and reproductive health and national sexual and reproductive health policy;[2] the Comprehensive and Integrated Sexual and Reproductive Health Care Unit of MINSAL; and the Strategic National Plan to Reduce Maternal, Perinatal and Neonatal Mortality. Effective as of 2016.[3]

13. In criminal legislation, no amendments have been contemplated to bring existing provisions into line with the Convention. However, it should be noted that eleven new criminal offences have been characterized in specialized legislation since January 2012, when the LEIV entered into force.

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[1] Decree 286 available at: http://www.isdemu.gob.sv/index.php?option=com_phocadownload&view=category&id=200%3Ainforme-cedaw&Itemid=234&lang=es.

[2] MINSAL. Executive Decision (Acuerdo Ejecutivo) No. 1181, published in Official Gazette 149, Volume No. 396, of 15 August 2012. Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy. Available at: http://publica.gobiernoabierto.gob.sv/institutions/ministerio-de-salud/information_standards/otros-documentos-normativos?page=3.

[3] MINSAL. Strategic National Plan to Reduce Maternal, Perinatal and Neonatal Mortality 2011-2014. Effective as of 2016. Available at: http://publica.gobiernoabierto.gob.sv/institutions/ministerio-de-salud/information_standards/otros-documentos-normativos?page=4.

14. In July 2016, ARENA party members of the Chamber of Deputies presented a bill to the Legislative Assembly proposing amendments to the Penal Code because they considered that with respect to cases of abortion and harm to the unborn child, the Penal Code does not protect life from the moment of conception and therefore violates the Constitution and the principle of equality and the principle that punishment be proportional to the protected legal good.[4] The proposed amendment targets articles 133, 139, 373 and 374 of the Penal Code and consists of replacing fines with imprisonment and harsher prison sentences (in the cases for which imprisonment is already contemplated). For cases involving intentional harm to the unborn child, a paragraph is added punishing the medical personnel responsible for inflicting it in the exercise of their profession or medical or paramedical activity with imprisonment and disqualification from office. In August 2016, the Legislative Assembly requested a technical opinion from the Salvadoran Institute for the Advancement of Women (ISDEMU) on the aforementioned proposed amendment. The Institute conducted a legal review and, in its expert opinion, explained why the proposed amendments are not necessary.[5]

15. In October 2016, the President of the Legislative Assembly presented a proposed amendment to article 133 of the Penal Code regarding voluntary and self-induced abortion with a view to it not being punishable in cases in which women and girls are victims of sexual abuse; to save the life and protect the health of the pregnant woman; and when the fetus is so deformed that it could not survive outside the womb.[6]

Equality and non-discrimination against women and intersecting forms of discrimination

16. The Secretariat for Social Inclusion has developed a Sexual Diversity Self-Training Manual providing information and knowledge for reducing stigma and discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons and has disseminated it among members of the PNC. In 2014, it organized training courses for 150 public prosecutors in various different operational units of the Office of the Attorney General and, in 2013, it installed the 131 telephone line intended to assist and attend to the LGBTI population.

17. The Secretariat for Culture of the Office of the President, SECULTURA, provides technical assistance with the drafting of municipal ordinances on behalf of indigenous peoples, which contain specific measures to guarantee the individual and social rights of indigenous women. During the seventy-seventh session of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, it praised and highlighted the Municipal Ordinance of Nahuizalco[7] and urged that it be taken as an example for other parts of the country.

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[4] ARENA bill to amend the Penal Code. July 2016. Available at: http://www.isdemu.gob.sv/index.php?option=com_phocadownload&view=category&id=200%3Ainforme-cedaw&Itemid=234&lang=es.

[5] ISDEMU. Note dated 8 September 2016. Available at: http://www.isdemu.gob.sv/index.php?option=com_phocadownload&view=category&id=200%3Ainforme-cedaw&Itemid=234&lang=es.

[6] ISDEMU. Proposed amendment to the Penal Code. Available at: http://www.isdemu.gob.sv/index.php?option=com_phocadownload&view=category&id=200%3Ainforme-cedaw&Itemid=234&lang=es.

[7] Municipal Council of Nahuizalco. Decree No. 1, published in the Official Gazette on 6 July 2011, Volume 392, No. 126. Available at: http://www.diariooficial.gob.sv/diarios/do-2011/07-julio/06-07-2011.pdf.

Access to justice and mechanisms for filing complaints

18. The Office of the Attorney General has 19 public prosecutors' offices in the whole of El Salvador, staffed by personnel trained to provide legal advice, to investigate acts of violence against women, adolescents and children, and to bring criminal and civil suits against those responsible. The Office also has four specialized care units for women, which provide legal services and psychological assistance at all phases of criminal proceedings, with a particular emphasis on crisis management and medical assistance.

19. The Office of the Procurator General of the Republic has established units to provide specialized care for women, including advisory services, legal representation and support during judicial or administrative proceedings; psychological and social care services; and self-help groups for women facing violence and discrimination. The Office reported providing 8,607 services between June 2015 and May 2016, 50.8 per cent of which (4,369) were legal advisory services; 37.7 per cent (3,242) psychosocial care services in cases of gender-based violence and discrimination; and 11.6 per cent (996) social services.

20. According to information provided by the Office of the Attorney General, in 2014 to 2016, 63 women were facing trial under articles 133 to 137. In that same period, there were four convictions. According to the Supreme Court of Justice, 13 judgments were handed down between 2001 and 2016. A breakdown is provided in annex 2.

21. Since 2015, the inter-agency coordination committee for youth and women at odds with the law, comprised of the Office of the Procurator General, the Supreme Court, the Ministry of Justice and Public Security (Directorate of Penitentiaries) and the Salvador Institute for Children and Adolescents, has established six support and training groups in the Women's Penitentiary, Granja de Izalco and the Women's Social Integration Centre in Ilopango. The participation in these groups of women deprived of their liberty makes them eligible for prison benefits as it is recorded in their files and in inmate behaviour reports. In 2015, 184 inmates participated in the six groups.

22. With respect to measures taken to protect defenders of women's human rights from threats, intimidation and harassment, in 2013, ISDEMU promoted a national campaign to strengthen citizen support for women's rights. As a result of that effort, some 20,000 women have been galvanized into becoming defenders of women's rights in the country's 14 departments. The great challenge they face is to boost their organizational capacity to a point at which they can constitute networks of women defending women's rights.

23. The Covenant for the Defence of Women's Civil and Political Rights was signed in 2014,[8] testifying to the commitment of the Salvadoran State to advance toward substantive equality for women and strengthen democracy. The Covenant seeks to promote compliance with women's civil and political rights, as a prerequisite for achieving substantive equality, strengthening democracy in our country, and reinforcing the mechanisms allowing State institutions and citizens to

[8] ISDEMU. Covenant for the Defence of Women's Civil and Political Rights. Available at: http://www.isdemu.gob.sv/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&catid=1%3Anoticias-ciudadano&id=862%3Apacto-por-la-defensa-de-los-derechos-civiles-y-politicos-de-las-mujeres&Itemid=77&lang=es.

work cooperatively together to disseminate and promote women's human rights by enhancing the legal framework for protecting women's rights and establishing citizen consultation and participation mechanisms.

24. Training schools in the justice sector, which comprises the Attorney-General's Office, the Supreme Court, the National Civilian Police, and the Procurator General's Office have run courses for their personnel. In 2014, 17 educational/training activities were reported with 449 participants. In 2015, the number of activities increased to 104, with 1,675 participants, while in 2017, there were 27 training courses and 368 participants.

25. The Salvadoran Institute for the Advancement of Women's Training School for Substantive Equality (EFIS) is a vocational training platform for public servants and women leaders, with a skills-based training model and a variety of teaching approaches stressing innovation and creativity. From its founding in 2013 through September 2016, 12,095 public servants from all three branches of government have attended EFIS training courses.

26. Ciudad Mujer (Women's City — CM)[9] is a Salvadoran Government programme based on the Development and Social Protection Act[10] that provides, cost-free, more than 30 services designed to meet women's needs and aimed at improving their quality of life and promoting their rights as citizens and financial autonomy. CM Centres provide the following services: sexual and reproductive health care; responses to gender-based violence; financial autonomy; land and knowledge management; and childcare. In 2014, the Ciudad Mujer Joven (Young Women's City) subprogramme was established to provide a set of services in the programme's response modules tailored to adolescents and young people and taking into account their differences vis-à-vis other CM users, while at the same time fostering their empowerment and knowledge of their rights. annex 3 contains a breakdown of the services provided.

27. An impact study conducted in three CM centres by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB in 2015 gives an idea of the ability of those centres to respond to the demands of the women visiting them. The study highlighted two of the CM model's main achievements, the first being **a marked increase in the demand for specialized public services**. Women visiting CM centres made 43 per cent more use of public services than those that did not. Most in demand were smear tests and mammograms, with CM visitors making 36 per cent more use of them than other women. Women attending CM centres also made five times more use of legal services for obtaining identity documents or birth certificates, and three times more use of legal services aimed at obtaining food rations or legal titles to property. The second major achievement highlighted in the IDB study is the CM programme's **contribution to its users' sense of wellbeing**. While 85 per cent of women who did not attend the centres reported being satisfied with their lives, the figure was 10.8 per cent higher (93 per cent) among CM visitors.[11]

28. CM centres are designed and built in such a way that they can readily be used by persons with physical, sensory, intellectual and mental disabilities. The

[9] Ciudad Mujer. Information available at: http://www.ciudadmujer.gob.sv/.

[10] Legislative Assembly of El Salvador. Legislative Decree No. 647, 3 April 2016. Available at: http://www.asamblea.gob.sv/eparlamento/indice-legislativo/buscador-de-documentos-legislativos/ley-de-desarrollo-y-protecion-social.

[11] Bustelo, M. Martínez, S.W. Pérez Maillard, Rodríguez Silva, J. (2016). Public provision of integrated services for women: Experimental evidence from Ciudad Mujer Program in El Salvador. Due to be published by IDB, 2016.

infrastructure includes access routes free of any architectural or urbanistic hurdles, ramps, sufficiently wide doors and corridors, lavatories built in accordance with the regulations, wide sliding doors, and support bars that people can hold on to. In the San Miguel and Morazán centres there are corridors with tactile guidance systems for the visually impaired and two special and spacious parking lots with direct access to the main reception area and ramps to the sidewalk outside to facilitate access. The women running the centres have been trained in Salvadoran Sign Language (LESSA) so as to ensure communication and provide better service to women users and visiting children with hearing impairment.

29. The 2016 National Budget appropriation for CM centres, totalling US$ 8,212,270, is channelled through the Secretariat for Social Inclusion (SIS), which coordinates the programme. Participating in the programme are 18 government entities providing the services pertaining to their spheres of competence. Each of their institutional budgets has an itemized allocation to cover the cost of staff assigned to each of the CM centres.

30. The Legislative Assembly is currently in the process of approving an additional US$ 30 million loan from IDB to expand the coverage of the CM programme by constructing three new centres in the departments of Sonsonate, Chalatenango and La Unión.

National machinery for the advancement of women

31. ISDEMU is the national institution responsible for developing public policies for the advancement of women's rights in El Salvador. The scope of its activities is governed by the provisions of the Act that established it and its implementing regulations; and by the LIE (2011); the LEIV (2012); and the Domestic Violence Act. The institutional budget for ISDEMU in 2016 was US$ 5,293,445 or 0.11 per cent of the US$ 4,860,767,135 of the total budget (2016 Budget Law Act). At December 2016, ISDEMU had a staff of 263 (232 women and 31 men). It has offices in all 14 departments of El Salvador and personnel to assist women victims of violence in the six Ciudad Mujer centres, the Care Programme in San Salvador and in two shelters.

32. The Equality Act[12] vests ISDEMU with a series of powers to facilitate implementation of gender mainstreaming by formulating and executing national, decentralized plans and policies; to implement institutional coordination mechanisms; and to establish a system for overseeing, monitoring and evaluating progress in this field. To fulfil these tasks, ISDEMU heads the National System for Substantive Equality, SNIS, which is the inter-agency coordination mechanism encompassing institutions in all three branches of government that are responsible for enforcing the Equality Act. The main outcome of its activities this year is the formulation of the 2016-2020 National Equality Plan.[13]

33. The Specialized Technical Commission, headed by ISDEMU, is the inter-agency coordination mechanism for implementing the LEIV and the National Policy

[12] ISDEMU. Ley de Igualdad, Equidad y erradicación de la discriminación contra las mujeres. [Equality, Equity and Eradication of Discrimination against Women Act], articles 9-13 in Normativa Nacional para la Igualdad de Género [National Regulations for Gender Equality]. San Salvador, ISDEMU, 2011, pp. 115-117.

[13] ISDEMU. Available at: http://www.isdemu.gob.sv/index.php?option=com_phocadownload&view=category&id=200%3Ainforme-cedaw&Itemid=234&lang=es.

for Women's Access to a Life Free from Violence and its 2016-2020 Plan of Action.[14] The Commission is involved, in the three branches of government and at the municipal level, in the design, implementation and evaluation of public policies to ensure women's access to a life free from violence.

34. Since 2013, ISDEMU has been operating the Statistics and Monitoring for Equality System, established pursuant to article 14 of the LIE and article 30 of the LEIV. It is a statistical and institutional information management tool focusing on the progress made by institutions with complying with national rules and regulations guaranteeing women's rights and reporting on the situation and status of Salvadoran women.

35. The Agreement between the Human Rights Ombudsperson's Office (PDDH) and ISDEMU concluded in November 2016. Its purpose had been to establish expeditious and effective mechanisms for their joint efforts on behalf of women victims of human rights violations, with a special emphasis on protecting the rights of female human rights defenders. Outcomes of the agreement include, in particular, the training of more than 100 women's rights defenders nationwide; the formulation of a joint proposal for setting up a protection system for women human rights defenders that include training, registration and support with the filing of complaints. Using project resources, ISDEMU donated to the PDDH all the furnishings needed to install a specialized care unit for women operating out of PDDH offices in San Salvador.

Stereotypes and harmful practices

36. MINSAL has drawn up the Plan for the Prevention of Teenage Pregnancy and Adverse Reproductive Outcomes in Pregnant Adolescents,[15] which contains health strategies and interventions in the framework of the Family and Community Health Care Model for 2015-2020. The idea is to implement comprehensive strategies and interventions in health promotion, prevention and education in order to strengthen protective factors and lower risk factors for youth in the municipalities prioritized for a reduction in teenage pregnancy on two fronts: (1) preventing it; and (2) preventing adverse reproductive outcomes should it occur.

37. Measures adopted to prevent teenage pregnancy:

(a) Promotion of health care services tailored to adolescents, through written media, radio spots and the "Eduquémonos en sexualidad" ("Let's educate ourselves about sexuality") website;

(b) Dissemination of the document "Extractos del Marco Legal vigente sobre el Derecho a la Salud y las obligaciones estatales para su garantía en adolescentes" (Extracts from the current legal framework regarding the right to health and state obligations to guarantee it for adolescents);

(c) Drafting of Guidelines on Comprehensive Care for Adolescents and Young People in the Comprehensive and Integrated Health Services Networks (RIISS);

[14] ISDEMU.

[15] ISDEMU. Available at: http://www.isdemu.gob.sv/index.php?option=com_phocadownload&view=category&id=200%3Ainforme-cedaw&Itemid=234&lang=es.

(d) Implementation of educational strategies targeting adolescents in communities and at school, pregnant adolescents, and adolescent parents;

(e) Preparation of the "Alondra" communications strategy, with written messages on pregnancy prevention, adolescents' rights and building a life plan.

38. Measures for punishing hate crimes: El Salvador has amended articles 129 and 155 of the Penal Code to make the motivation of hatred of a murder victim's sexual orientation and gender identity an aggravating factor that increases the punishment from 30 to 50 years' imprisonment. Also criminalized are threats based on hatred of the victim's sexual orientation and gender identity and expression. Based on that amendment, the Sexual Diversity Directorate in SIS has a page on its website called "Security panel and access to justice for LGBTI persons",[16] for developing responses aimed at implementing the aforementioned reforms within the spheres of competence of the institutions responsible for enforcing the amendments.

39. The Executive Branch is governed by Executive Decree No. 56,[17] which contains regulations prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and by the Five-Year Development Plan for 2014-2019, which establishes LGBTI persons as a priority segment of the population, so that public servants have rules governing their conduct toward those persons. Based on that Decree, SIS conducts training and sensitization courses on human rights, gender and sexual diversity. It is also developing the first "Institutional Inclusion Index", a tool for measuring the level of assimilation and implementation of the regulations in effect in the public service. Its outputs will make it possible to tailor actions to the specific needs of each institution.

Gender-based violence against women

40. Violent deaths of women totalled 574 in 2015, with a further 465 suffering violent deaths through November 2016. Of those 1,039 cases, 686 (66 per cent) were classified during the investigation phases as femicides. The courts heard 72 femicide cases in 2015 and 118 in 2016. Judgments were handed down in 33 proceedings in 2015 and in 25 proceedings in 2016. The breakdown is shown in annex 4.

41. In November 2015, ISDEMU published the findings of a study entitled "Femicide in El Salvador: Obstacles to Access to Justice".[18] The study presents the results of an analysis, undertaken jointly with the Office of the Attorney General, of implementation of the Protocol to be followed for investigating cases of femicide, in which the idea was to examine how auxiliary personnel and public prosecutors involved in investigations into violent deaths of women went about their work, particularly their handling of crime scenes and investigation procedures.

42. The study includes an analysis of obstacles encountered in cases involving the violent deaths of women. The selection of cases was based on the circumstantial

[16] SIS. Information available at: http://www.inclusionsocial.gob.sv/instalan-mesa-sobre-acceso-a-seguridad-y-justicia-para-poblacion-lgbti/.

[17] Office of the President of the Republic. Executive Decree No. 56, 4 May 2010. Available at: https://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/ELECTRONIC/86392/97471/F1174021459/SLV86392.pdf.

[18] ISDEMU. Available at: http://www.isdemu.gob.sv/index.php?option=com_phocadownload&view=category&id=199%3Ainvestigaciones_2015&Itemid=234&lang=es.

account of any facts suggesting an act preceded by mutilation, assault or rape; conditions related to risk or to the physical or mental vulnerability of the woman victim and the other circumstances listed in articles 45 and 46 of the LEIV. The principal obstacles to access to justice identified in cases involving the violent deaths of women are:

(a) Lacunae and irregularities in the investigation of cases involving violence against women, including defects in the actions undertaken in situ or at the crime scene; defective gathering of evidence; and failures of due diligence in the investigation;

(b) Failure by judges to substantiate and construct gender-sensitive judgments, including deficient assessment of evidence from a gender perspective; the prevalence of stereotypes and prejudice in judges and failure to build a gender perspective into their substantiation of the arguments.

43. Article 25 of the LEIV calls for Specialized Care Units to attend to women confronted with violence in the following institutions: the Judiciary, the Institute of Forensic Medicine, the Office of the Attorney General, the Office of the Procurator General, the Ministry of Health, and any other competent authorities. As at December 2016, there were 82 units specializing in the handling of cases of violence against women, spread over the country's 14 territorial departments, as shown in annex 5.

44. In February 2016, the Legislative Assembly adopted Decree 286, establishing Specialized Courts for a Life Free from Violence and Discrimination against Women,[19] scheduled to start operating in January 2017. They will be competent to hear cases of the offences established in the LEIV and complaints and reports based on the Domestic Violence Act; to monitor and oversee the precautionary and protection measures established in the LEIV and LIE; and to hear cases involving labour discrimination offences and violations of the right to equality. The courts will be installed in the eastern, central and western parts of the country (in San Miguel, San Salvador and Santa Ana, respectively). There will also be a specialized court of first instance, a specialized sentencing court and a specialized chamber. The San Salvador court will start operating in January 2017, the rest in June 2017. The San Salvador court will also hear cases from La Libertad, Chalatenango, La Paz, Cabañas, Cuscatlán and San Vicente; the Santa Ana court will also cover cases from Sonsonate and Ahuachapán; while the San Miguel court will also hear cases from Usulután, La Unión and Morazán.

45. Guidelines for actions aimed at preventing violence against women are to be found in the National Policy for Women's Access to a Life Free from Violence and its 2016-2020 National Plan.[20] The strategic objective pursued by that Plan is to transform the social and cultural behaviour patterns that reproduce violence and discrimination against women. Government interventions to prevent violence are conducted at both the national and local levels and involve key sectors, such as the

[19] ISDEMU. Decree 286, available at: http://www.isdemu.gob.sv/index.php?option=com_phocadownload&view=category&id=200%3Ainforme-cedaw&Itemid=234&lang=es.

[20] ISDEMU. National Policy for Women's Access to a Life Free from Violence and Plan of Action. Available at: http://www.isdemu.gob.sv/index.php?option=com_phocadownload&view=category&id=200%3Ainforme-cedaw&Itemid=234&lang=es.

educational system and the media, because of their impact in achieving the social and cultural transformations needed to eradicate violence against women.

46. The principal courses of action planned for 2015-2016 were:[21] Municipal Plans for Preventing Violence against Women; the Safe El Salvador Plan (PESS); Communication Strategies for Preventing Violence against Women; Actions to Prevent, Respond to and Punish Violence against Women, especially sexual harassment, workplace harassment and discrimination; the Implementation of Punitive Proceedings against Civil Servants for Practising Violence against Women; and specialized training courses for personnel in the institutions comprising the Specialized Technical Commission on women's right to a life free from violence and discrimination.

47. The Safe El Salvador Plan (PESS) is designed to be a comprehensive and flexible plan with five main focuses and 124 priority actions for dealing with violence and crime, guaranteeing access to justice and providing care and protection for victims.[22] This Plan mainstreams actions into Results addressing the different types of violence against women: R.1. The population in prioritized municipalities benefits from efficient institutional services for preventing violence. It establishes capacity-building strategies for Municipal Committees for the Prevention of Violence to enable them to address the different types of violence against women and girls, in coordination with departmental management planning teams. R.3. Reduced incidence of crimes in public areas in the selected municipalities. Installation of offices for attending to citizens, especially women, in the municipalities prioritized under the PESS, (annex 6). R.5. A reduction in the number of children, adolescents, and young people who neither study nor work in the selected municipalities. Training programs to enhance the technical and other skills needed for women heads of household and victims of violence to enter the job market. R.6. A reduction in domestic violence and other maltreatment of women. Implementation of a plan to assist families in the communities hardest hit by violence that includes programmes catering to basic needs; and programmes to enhance values and transform relations between men and women in the community, at school, and in the workplace.

48. Measures adopted to eradicate sexual violence against women and girls in penitentiaries include: the adoption by the Legislative Assembly, in 2015, of a series of changes to the Penitentiary Act., D.L. 74,[23] which amended Chapter III-Bis on the regulations governing family visits and established stricter requirements for general and conjugal visits, limiting them to relatives who could show proof of second degree of consanguinity or second degree of kinship (article 14.A) and, in the case of conjugal visits, allowing the inmate to register just one adult, provided that proof is furnished of a legal or de facto relationship with the inmate, and not allowing any change of visitor for one year (article 14.B). In addition, under the new rules for

[21] ISDEMU. Further details are provided in the Report on the Status and Situation of Violence against Women, San Salvador, November 2016. Available at: http://www.isdemu.gob.sv/index.php?option=com_phocadownload&view=category&id=200%3Ainforme-cedaw&Itemid=234&lang=es.

[22] Information available at: http://dialogoelsalvador.com/dialogo_sv/index.php.

[23] Legislative Assembly. Legislative Decree No. 74, August 13, 2015. Available at: http://www.asamblea.gob.sv/eparlamento/indice-legislativo/buscador-de-documentos-legislativos/reformase-la-ley-penitenciaria-1.

family visits, only persons free of criminal and police records are allowed to enter penitentiaries (article 14.C). New rules also require penitentiaries to establish exclusive and appropriate, safe and properly protected areas for visits by children and adolescents, with all the care they need for their well-being. In 2016, Decree Law 321[24] was adopted on "Transitory and Extraordinary Special Provisions for Penitentiaries aimed at restricting visits and regulating the entry of public and private defence counsel".

49. Procedural guidelines on specialized care for women confronted with violence are set out in the National Policy for Women's Access to a Life Free from Violence and its 2016-2020 National Plan. Pursuant to that policy, in 2016, ISDEMU, as the body overseeing implementation of the LEIV, established the National Care System (SNA),[25] which is the inter-agency mechanism for managing and coordinating the provision of comprehensive and specialized care for women confronted with violence. The SNA's objectives are: (a) To provide comprehensive and specialized services to women to cater to, protect, and restore rights that have been violated; (b) To strengthen institutional capacity to respond to all cases of violence against women; and (c) To ensure the effective provision of precautionary measures on behalf of victims. At December 2016, 82 such units were operating, providing specialized care to women confronted with violence. For further information on the support services available, see the Report on the Status and Situation of Violence against Women. ISDEMU, November 2016.[26]

50. The Special Fund is not yet operational. In 2015, ISDEMU contacted the Ministry of Finance to arrange for a noninterest-bearing bank account. The account has been opened at the Central Reserve Bank but is not currently funded.

Women, peace, and security

51. National Committee 1325 was installed in 2014 through Executive Decree 74,[27] with a Governing Council, a Technical Monitoring Commission and an Advisory Group. The Committee is currently finalizing the 2017-2022 National Action Plan for Implementing Resolution 1325, "Women, Peace and Security" and working on the: following: a. Resolution 1325 and the International Women, Peace and Security Agenda; b. Tools for Implementing Resolution 1325 in El Salvador. The objective pursued in the Plan is to implement Resolution 1325 and subsequent

[24] Legislative Assembly. Legislative Decree No. 321, 1 April 2016. Available at: http://www.asamblea.gob.sv/eparlamento/indice-legislativo/buscador-de-documentos-legislativos/201cdisposiciones-especiales-transitorias-y-extraordinarias-en-los-centros-penitenciarios-granjas-penitenciarias-centros-intermedios-y-centros-temporales-de-reclusion201d.

[25] ISDEMU. Available at: http://www.isdemu.gob.sv/index.php?option=com_phocadownload&view=category&id=491%3Arvlv_documentos2016&Itemid=234&lang=es.

[26] ISDEMU. Available at: http://www.isdemu.gob.sv/index.php?option=com_phocadownload&view=category&id=200%3Ainforme-cedaw&Itemid=234&lang=es.

[27] Office of the President of the Republic. Executive Decree No. 74. Published in the Official Gazette No. 200, 28 October 2014. Available at: http://www.jurisprudencia.gob.sv/VisorMLX/Documento/Documento.aspx?Data=EEWpwv3zftxk8BAMARZKK+EzFzrj2H3fsuSX8HoEegTOh5YkJCqWrLLN+Ai+L8Brmq2QXnenX9HlpDG9vm8fYLZ+r/s+kQ+6q1opzjGTptC4LSee4OIoEdH84Y4J0+JtMplAHTiA/jW+N228CDyAbtZzzC498ejld7+SIq2J+rVgE2SbvpxAmfqZBqo/UtqWJQ.

resolutions, by ensuring consistency and coordination of the activities of the national institutions involved, which form part of National Committee 1325.

52. Women's participation in the process is assured by the Decree establishing the Committee, which provides for participation in the Technical Commission of delegates from Concertación Feminista Prudencia Ayala; female representatives of civil society on the Governing Board of ISDEMU; and delegates from the Salvadoran Women's Parliamentary Group. Participating in the Governing Council, there are, likewise, three representatives of national nongovernmental organizations devoted to the promotion and observance of women's rights. In 2016, a group of former women fighters in the five political wings of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), called "Mujeres constructoras de Paz, Democracia y Seguridad" was formed to contribute with their experience, interests and critical vision to the forging of peace, democracy and security. It provides a participatory mechanism through which women contribute to the consolidation of peace in El Salvador, having already established their agenda.

Trafficking and prostitution (sexual exploitation)

53. In October 2014, the Legislative Assembly adopted the Special Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act,[25] designed to detect, prevent, prosecute and punish human trafficking and to cater to, protect and restore the rights of victims and their dependents. The Act gave rise to the establishment of the National Council against Trafficking in Persons and the following instruments: Rules of Procedure for Implementing the Special Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act, a document approved by the President of the Republic; the General Protocol for Attending to Victims of Trafficking in Persons; and updated versions of the National Policy to Combat Trafficking in Persons and its Plan of Action.

54. Pursuant to the Special Act, steps have been taken to strengthen the Specialized Units to Combat Trafficking in Persons and Related Offences that the Act mandates in public prosecutors' offices and police facilities. The Directorate General of Migration and Immigration has established the Trafficking and Smuggling of Persons Unit. Both types of unit report to the Ministry of Justice and Public Security. In the last quarter of 2016, the Ministry, which heads the National Council on Trafficking, was due to install 15 local offices to provide care to victims as part of an effort by the Salvadoran State to care for victims of crimes against human dignity, with a priority emphasis on the various types of trafficking in persons.

55. In 2015, the National Council against Trafficking in Persons organized training courses on the Special Act, targeting a wide range of participants, including students, local violence prevention committees, community leaders, labour inspectors, policemen, public prosecutors, forensic physicians, judges, journalists from all media, and government officials in the National Technical Committee against Trafficking in Persons. In 2015, 2,473 people received training thanks to those courses. In 2016, priority was given to training labour inspectors and health

[25] Legislative Assembly. Legislative Decree No. 824, October 2014. Available at: http://www.asamblea.gob.sv/eparlamento/indice-legislativo/buscador-de-documentos-legislativos/ley-especial-contra-la-trata-de-personas.

care personnel country-wide, given their key role in detecting possible victims of trafficking.

56. As part of the overall effort to prevent and raise awareness about trafficking in persons, a popular version of the Special Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act was crafted, as a tool to be used locally in schools and highly vulnerable segments of the population. There are seven municipal ordinances that include measures to prevent trafficking in persons and the National Council has provided training to Municipal Committees for the Prevention of Violence in the 16 municipalities prioritized under the Safe El Salvador Plan.

57. Through its Units for the Defence of the Family, Children and Adolescents and the Psychosocial Prevention Unit, the Office of the Procurator General has given preventive talks in schools and, in 2014-2016, it provided training for 420 employees operating in the field to help them identify the various forms of human trafficking.

58. Details on the number of complaints filed, investigations, prosecutions and convictions for trafficking and sexual exploitation can be found in annex 7.

Participation in political and public life

59. The principal obstacles to women's participation in municipal governments stem from a series of cultural factors, including above all stereotypes and prejudices that are reflected in political violence; the allocation of roles that shape how time is used and the extent to which family life can be reconciled with the performance of public service; economic hurdles; lack of political education/training, and so on.

60. The 2015-2019 National Equality Plan envisages, under Women's Political and Civic Participation, strategic actions to bring national electoral regulations and the regulations governing the three branches of government into line with the Equality Act. As part of that process, in September 2016, the Women's Parliamentary Group (GPM) in the Legislative Assembly formulated a draft Special Decree on Gender Parity in Women's and Men's Political Participation, with both sexes entitled to at least 40% representation in the Executive, Legislature, and Judiciary. That draft is currently being reviewed. ISDEMU's Substantive Equality Training School has a training curriculum specifically related to Women's Political Leadership and Political Participation.

61. Information on the electoral outcomes following application of article 37 of the Political Parties Act in the 2015 elections can be found in annex 8.

Education

62. Information providing a breakdown of the figures on school attendance and the reasons for non-attendance at all levels in the educational system is provided in annex 9.

63. The General Education Act and the amendments thereto in 2011 prohibit discrimination of any kind, including the denial of enrolment to pregnant girls or their expulsion from school. In August 2016, the Ministry of Education (MINED) approved the Gender Equity and Equality Policy and its Plan of Action, through

Decision 15-1268, published in the Official Gazette in September 2016.[29] With this Policy's entry into force, the idea is to eliminate existing gender inequalities in the national educational system. It will serve as a regulatory instrument for shaping the services, interventions, processes, structure, organization, and operations of the Ministry.

64. In 2014-2015, MINED updated the Comprehensive Education in Sexuality curriculum and its Family Guidelines for Comprehensive Education in Sexuality.[30] The curriculum now contains the following modules: 1. Frame of reference for comprehensive protection of children and adolescents at school. 2. Guidelines for attending to victims of sexual harassment at school. 3. Procedural Protocol for addressing sexual violence in educational communities in El Salvador. 4. Family Education. Methodological guidelines on comprehensive education in sexuality. 5. A basic comprehensive education in sexuality course for teachers at the early childhood and pre-primary, primary and secondary school levels.

65. The MINED Plan for Implementing Gender Equality Policy in Inclusive Non-sexist Education identified the crux of the problem: the prevalence of a sexual divide in secondary school courses, and suggested as Objective No. 2 amending the sexual divide in the selection of secondary school special subjects.

66. The Salvadoran Vocational Training Institute (INSAFORP) runs a scholarship programme for women and men seeking to pursue technical studies at the Zamorano Pan-American Agricultural School in Honduras. The technical courses are: Agribusiness Administration; Food Agroindustry; Environment and Development; and Agricultural Livestock Science and Production. This scholarship programme is also directed at women wishing to study plant breeding, animal husbandry or agroindustry at the National School of Agriculture of El Salvador. INSAFORP also lends support with non-traditional professional training opportunities for women through the Ciudad Mujer programme.

Employment

67. The Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MTPS) implements the National Employment System Strategy, SisNE, which uses a series of tools: job counselling, local employment exchanges, job fairs, self-employment fairs, mobile kiosks, employment management arrangements with companies, day courses on labour law requirements for enterprises, thematic events for targeted population groups such as JUVENTOUR, and special fairs for young people, women, the LGBTI community and persons with disabilities.

68. Between June 2015 and May 2016, thanks to the SisNE, jobs were found for more than 17,944 people (8,607 women and 9,337 men). During that same period, 41 awareness-raising courses were held for senior human resource department personnel on finding jobs for people, especially women and young people. Thirty-five job fairs were organized. Given that job counselling enhances people's skills and increases their chances of employment, that service was provided to 66,553 people in the same period: 36,974 women and 29,559 men.

[29] MINED. Gender Equity and Equality Policy. Available at: http://www.mined.gob.sv/index.php/noticias/avisos-item/8400-politica-de-equidad-e-igualdad-de-genero-del-mined.

[30] Available at: http://www.mined.gob.sv/index.php/component/k2/item/7212.

69. The Ciudad Mujer Financial Autonomy Module groups eight government institutions together,[31] to provide specialized technical vocational training services; entrepreneurial technical expertise with establishing productive self-employment enterprises; labour counselling and employee management; legal assistance with obtaining identity documents and the enjoyment of consumers' rights; and assistance with eliciting low-interest loans for women. Through the National Commission of Micro and Small Enterprises (CONAMYPE) counter at the various Ciudad Mujer centres, 1,600 enterprises have been created and provided with entrepreneurial technical assistance, training with respect to rights, and other related services.

70. The Strategic Programmes Directorate is responsible for coordinating the "Jóvenes con Todo" ("Young People with Everything") programme,[32] designed to develop the skills and qualities needed to improve access to the job market and increase productive opportunities for youth. The programme embodies cross-cutting approaches to: gender and rights; inclusion of priority groups (young mothers, young people with disabilities, LGBTI persons, indigenous peoples, and others); and effective, distinct and specially tailored attention to youth in rural and urban areas.

71. In May 2015, MTPS installed an inter-agency committee to ratify International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 189 on decent work for domestic workers. Coordinating with such bodies as the Technical and Planning Secretariat of the Office of the President of the Republic, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Health, the Salvadoran Social Security Institute, and the Salvadoran Institute for the Advancement of Women, and with the support of the ILO country office, the Committee conducted the reviews and consultations needed to be able to submit the Convention to the Legislative Assembly.

72. The Salvadoran Social Security Institute reports some 3,000 registrations since the special rules on registering domestic workers were established in 2010, a number (and percentage) way below the target (of 25,000 registered persons) set for the first five-year period. This was due to several biases in the initial rules, among them the requirement that the domestic worker had to receive the minimum wage established for the commerce, manufacturing and services sector and the fact that registration was voluntary.

73. In April 2016, the Technical and Planning Secretariat of the Office of the President of the Republic, in coordination with ISDEMU, put forward a National Care Policy proposal during a public forum entitled "The Recognition and Provision

[31] The institutions in the Financial Autonomy Module are the National Commission of Micro and Small Enterprises (CONAMYPE), the Salvadoran Vocational Training Institute (INSAFORP), the Family Microenterprise Solidarity Fund (FOSOFAMILIA), the Banco de Fomento Agropecuario (Agricultural Development Bank — BFA), the Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MTPS), the National Register of Individuals (RNPN), the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) and the Consumer Protection Agency.

[32] Profile of the "Jóvenes con Todo" Employment and Employability Programme 2014-2019. Available at: http://www.jovenescontodo.gob.sv/perfil-del-programa/.

of Care Work in El Salvador: Challenges for an Integrated Policy".[33] The seminar was organized by ECLAC, ISDEMU, the Technical and Planning Secretariat of the Office of the President (STPP), the Central Reserve Bank of El Salvador (BCR) and the Office of the Director General of Statistics and Censuses (DIGESTYC) and fits in with the intersectoral work being done by the Monitoring Commission in charge of forging a Care Worker Policy in El Salvador and by the Inter-agency Coordination Office for Constructing a Satellite Unpaid Domestic Labour Account. As of December 2016, a socio-demographic diagnostic assessment[34] was available of the care needs of the different target populations and its findings have prompted inter-agency and intersectoral reflection and dialogue.

74. Regulatory measures related to fostering shared responsibility for care: in 2013, amendments were made to article 29 of the Labour Code[35] and article 9 of the Public Servants' Days Off, Vacations and Leave Act,[36] establishing 3 days of paid paternity leave upon the birth or adoption of a child. In 2015, Decree No. 143[37] amended article 309 of the Labour Code, while Decree No. 174[38] amended articles 5 and 9 of the Public Servants' Days Off, Vacations and Leave Act, extending maternity leave to four months.

75. Measures adopted to eliminate child labour: Multiple Purpose Household Survey (EHPM) data indicate that in 2015 there were 140,700 child and adolescent workers between the ages of 5 and 17, or 8.9 per cent of that age group. The figure for 2014 was 141,609. A breakdown of these figures is provided in annex 10.

76. Working in coordination with one another, MTPS and the Technical and Planning Secretariat completed the 2015-2017 Roadmap for making El Salvador a country free from the worst forms of child labour, which had been conceived as an instrument for managing, overseeing and implementing the strategies and measures needed to reduce the incidence of child labour. The "List of Activities and Dangerous Jobs for which Children and Adolescents may not be employed"[39] is a tool developed to facilitate inspections and prevent children and adolescents from

[33] ECLAC-German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development/International Cooperation Agency (BMZ/GIZ). Information regarding the seminar on "Recognition and Provision of Care Work in El Salvador: Challenges for an Integrated Policy". Available at: http://giz-cepal.cl/contenido/seminario-reconocimiento-y-provisi-n-de-cuidados-en-el-salvador-desaf-os-para-una-pol-tica.

[34] ECLAC. Care Worker Policy in El Salvador: Options, Goals and ChallengesOctober 2015. Available at: http://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/39169/S1500978_es.pdf.

[35] Legislative Assembly of El Salvador. Legislative Decree No. 332, March 2013. Available at: http://www.asamblea.gob.sv/eparlamento/indice-legislativo/buscador-de-documentos-legislativos/reformase-el-codigo-de-trabajo.

[36] Legislative Assembly of El Salvador. Legislative Decree No. 335, March 2013. Available at: http://www.asamblea.gob.sv/eparlamento/indice-legislativo/buscador-de-documentos-legislativos/reformase-la-ley-de-asuetos-vacacines-y-lecencias-de-los-empleados-publicos.

[37] Legislative Assembly of El Salvador. Legislative Decree No. 143, October 2015. Available at: http://www.asamblea.gob.sv/eparlamento/indice-legislativo/buscador-de-documentos-legislativos/reformase-el-codigo-de-trabajo-a-fin-de-aumentar-4-semanas-mas-la-licencia-por-maternidad.

[38] Legislative Assembly of El Salvador. Legislative Decree No. 174, November 2015. Available at: http://www.asamblea.gob.sv/eparlamento/indice-legislativo/buscador-de-documentos-legislativos/reformase-la-ley-de-asuetos-vacaciones-y-licencias-de-los-empleados-publicos-1.

[39] Ministry of Labour and Social Security. Decision No. 241 of MTPS, 8 July 2011. Available at: http://www.mtps.gob.sv/wp-content/uploads/descargas/InformacionInstitucional/Acuerdos/acuerdo-241-actividades-trabajos-lpeligrosos-ninas-ninos-adolescentes.pdf.

doing dangerous or unhealthy work, which, because of its nature or the conditions in which it is carried out, could cost them their lives or harm their physical and mental health.

77. The "Inter-agency Protocol for Withdrawing Children and Adolescents from Child Labour and Preventing Child Labour" aims to establish concrete actions to be taken to withdraw underage children from child labour situations as well as adolescents doing dangerous work. MTPS has in place and implements a Permanent Plan for Verifying Child Labour. Between June 2015 and May 2016, 915 workplace inspections were carried out and detected 11 adolescents with a work permit and five adolescents without one. During that same period, work permit applications were examined for 2,994 persons under the age of 18. 223 permits were granted, pursuant to the Labour Code, to adolescent boys and 160 for adolescent girls.[40] Another achievement worth mentioning is the publication of newsletters on special topics, one of them being the "Special Bulletin on Actions Undertaken to Eliminate Child Labour 2009-2016".[41] Those actions comply with ILO Conventions 138 and 182, which regulate the minimum age for employment and the elimination of child labour, and which El Salvador ratified.

Health

78. The Ministry of Health reports that grassroots health services are reaching the population thanks to the deployment nationwide (in 184 municipalities) of the Community Family Health Teams (ECOS Familiares). They include sexual and reproductive health care (SRH) services. The figures indicate the following:

(a) Nearly one quarter (24 per cent) of the services provided in MINSAL establishments are preventive, including all SRH services (prenatal and postnatal care; contraception, pap smears, breast examinations, menopause and climacterium, pre-conception consultations, high reproductive risk consultations, and so on);

(b) Two-thirds (66 per cent) of consultations for registration and pre- ad postnatal care are carried out in rural areas;

(c) High reproductive risk consultations are now carried out in hospitals and specialized and intermediate Community Family Health Units (UCSF-E and UCSF-I);

(d) Maternal and child health intervention plans have been implemented in Community Family Health Units (UCSF);

(e) Nearly two-thirds (65 per cent) of all pregnancy registrations are performed before the 12th week of pregnancy (Information for January to June 2016);

(f) Implementation of strategies to encourage women to give birth in hospital (reached 99 per cent in January-June 2016);

[40] Ministry of Labour and Social Security. 2015-2016 Yearbook of MTPS. Available at: http://publica.gobiernoabierto.gob.sv/institutions/ministerio-de-trabajo-y-prevision-social/information_standards/memorias-de-labores.

[41] Ministry of Labour and Social Security. Special Bulletin on Actions Undertaken to Eliminate Child Labour, 2009-2016. Available at: http://www.mtps.gob.sv/wp-content/uploads/descargas/BoletinesEstadisticos/mtps-boletin-acciones-impulsadas-para-la-erradicacion-del-trabajo-infantil-2009-2016.pdf.

(g) Magnesium sulphate is administered to pregnant women with hypertensive disorders in the 39 Specialized UCSF, before they are referred;

(h) Progressive implementation of the Strategy to Ensure the Availability of Sexual and Reproductive Health Medicines and Inputs in MINSAL facilities;

(i) Nationwide community-based distribution of contraceptives by health promoters and midwives.

79. MINSAL conducts ongoing training courses on professional secrecy. Almost all (98 per cent of) abortions are performed using modern techniques that reduce the risk of complications to the woman and they are accompanied by counselling and access to contraception.

80. Measures to protect pregnant women from the harmful effects of the Zika virus:

(a) Interventions to avoid mosquito bites: activities to promote the elimination of breeding sites for mosquitoes, the distribution of mosquito repellents to pregnant women, the use of mosquito nets for pregnant patients in MINSAL hospitals;

(b) Measures to avoid infection through sexual intercourse: training courses for health personnel on the proper use of female and male condoms to prevent Zika, the distribution of female condoms to prioritized establishments;

(c) Prevention of undesired pregnancy: provision and accessibility of modern contraceptive methods, preferably the longer-lasting methods; high reproductive risk consultations;

(d) Couples wanting pregnancy: pre-conception consultations.

81. MINSAL is developing the humanized birth approach for users of the Comprehensive and Integrated Health Services Networks (RIISS), initially through courses on Obstetric Violence and Humanized Birth for the Heads of Gynaecological and Obstetrics Departments in El Salvador's 28 Maternity Hospitals and the maternal health monitors in each Health Region. Ongoing and ample discussion ("socialization") of the topic of Obstetric Violence and Humanized Birth in medical education circles is achieved through teleconferences with the health care providers in the RIISS. Obstetric violence is seen as an administrative failing on the part of health personnel and is punished as such.

82. Measures adopted to ensure access to contraceptives:

(a) First and second tier establishments provide modern contraceptive methods, including the longer-lasting forms of contraception, cost-free. (Details are provided in annex 11);

(b) Nearly two-thirds (65.6 per cent) of active users of contraceptives served by the UCSF and hospitals are in rural areas;

(c) Personnel trained in counselling skills;

(d) Technical Guidelines for the provision of updated contraceptive services, including contraception for adolescents;

(e) An increase in the number of users opting for intrauterine devices after an obstetric event, as a long term contraceptive method, in national network hospitals (8 per cent of all users opting for an IUD).

(f) Inclusion on the Official List of etonogestrol implants as a long-term contraceptive method;

(g) Inclusion on the Official List of levonorgestrel as an emergency contraceptive;

(h) Provision of emergency contraception using levonorgestrel or the Yuzpe Regimen, in the services network.

Economic empowerment of women

83. With regard to bank loans, mortgages and other forms of credit available for women, the Agricultural Development Bank (BFA) has promoted access to loans for entrepreneurial undertakings. Most loans to women (65 per cent) are for studies. A breakdown is provided in annex 12.

84. The Ministry of Economy has a trust fund for providing non-reimbursable co-financing for Salvadoran micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, so as to render them more competitive and trigger an economic impact. Approximately one-sixth (17 per cent) of the initiatives supported by this fund pertain to enterprises in which the legal representative is a woman. The funds provided by FONDEPRO are used, inter alia, to purchase technology, develop markets (through commercial, international and other fairs), quality enhancement, and so on.

85. In partnership with IDB, the National Commission for Micro and Small Enterprise (CONAMYPE) developed Women and Business 2015, as part of the Female Entrepreneur Programme, in which 401 women benefited from the establishment of new enterprises, employment and revenue generation, increased sales, access to new markets and innovative processes and products. The Female Entrepreneur counters operating in the Ciudad Mujer centres served 8,667 women in 2015. They were supported by female group mentors focusing on commercial aspects, women's leadership groups and the Entrepreneurship and Gender Programme. Support was also provided for 161 associations, including 67 prominent groups that received specialized technical assistance and 16 that joined and are active in the School Packages Programme. Through the Public-Private-Academia Partnership, in 2015 the Centres for the Development of Micro and Small Enterprises provided their clients (58 per cent of them women) with technical assistance, business advice, training courses, loan proposals, and connections.

86. Banco de Desarrollo de El Salvador (BANDESAL) performed more than 5, 400 financial and technical operations on behalf of women customers, through three components of the Women's Banking Programme (Banca Mujer): loans, guarantees and training, and technical assistance. The loans granted totalled US$ 7 million and were distributed among the Banca Mujer/FDE Programme, Fondo Mujer, and the Trust Fund for the Development of Micro and Small Enterprise (FIDEMYPE). More than US$ 3 million were used for guarantees, benefiting 2,144 women entrepreneurs by raising more than US$ 4.6 million in productive loans from private banks. The

women accessing Banca Mujer Programme loans are eligible to receive support from the BANDESAL Training Centre. See annex 12.

Rural women

87. The Family Agriculture Plan (PAAF) is being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) using funds from a Central American Economic Integration Bank (CABEI) loan and the Government of El Salvador. It was established to contribute to a reduction in rural poverty by generating wealth and wellbeing for families living in poverty in rural areas of the country.

88. In 2015-2016, MAG transferred technology to 59,437 small and medium-sized famers producing basic grains, thereby directly benefiting 41,185 men and 18,252 women. In 2015, 676,843 agricultural "packages" were delivered, including: 167,557 packages of enhanced kidney bean seeds (to 89,378 men and 78,179 women) and 400,000 packages of corn seeds for the 2016 harvest, together with fertilizer, to 244,000 male and 156,000 female farmers. Support for families hit by climate change was supplemented with the delivery of food packages to 44,990 families. To revive coffee-growing and farmers' stocks, the MAG supplied 7,447,775 rust-resistant high-productivity coffee plants to 4,288 small and medium-sized producers (2,930 men and 1,358 women). With a view to achieving the production of high quality, pest- and disease-free fruit, technical assistance was provided to 1,182 commercial fruit farmers (926 men and 256 women). In order to improve production systems, technology was transferred to 1,471 farmers producing and marketing vegetables, to the direct benefit of 1,065 male and 406 female family farmers (indirectly benefiting 5,825 producers).

89. The Centre for the Development of Family Agriculture (CEDAF-MORAZÁN) is promoting scientific and technological development in the dry corridor area of eastern El Salvador in order to foster the continuous, increasing, and sustainable development of agricultural, livestock, forestry and aquiculture activities in the east of the country. 34,000 vegetable seedlings were produced and distributed through branches of the Enrique Álvarez Córdova National Centre for Agricultural, Livestock and Forestry Technology (CENTA) and the Ciudad Mujer centres in Morazán, San Miguel and Usulután to establish vegetable gardens benefiting 300 families.

90. For El Salvador, food and nutritional security is a priority based on the principle that everyone has a right to adequate food. For that reason, it is steadfastly committed to implementing the 2025 Food Security, Nutrition and Eradication of Hunger Plan of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (SAN-CELAC Plan). Accordingly, through the CELAC Working Group on the Advancement of Women, for which El Salvador is the coordinator, it has promoted formulation of the "Gender Strategy for Implementing the SAN-CELAC Plan, which is a platform for helping our countries to underscore and promote best practices and the various public policies being implemented in the area of food and nutrition security and, clearly, for generating opportunities for the participation, with equality and empowerment, of indigenous, Afrodescendent, rural and campesina women.

91. The Salvadoran Institute for the Transformation of Agriculture (ISTA) reports that in 2014-2015 land titles were granted to 2,351 women (51 per cent) and 2,266

men (49 per cent). A breakdown is provided in annex 13. Another measure that ISTA pursues to achieve recognition of land ownership is enforcement of the Special Rules Act for Land owned by rural, communal and community cooperatives and beneficiaries of the Agrarian Reform,[42] and the amendments thereto, which regulates the joint and equal transfer of ownership to family members.

Disadvantaged women

92. No information is available on displaced women still living in hazardous circumstances.

93. The country has made an effort to quantify the number of persons with disabilities, using the National Survey of Persons with Disabilities.[43] According to that survey, there are 222,585 girls and women with disabilities, 83.5 per cent of the group aged 25 or older, and 64.3 per cent live in urban areas. See the breakdown in annex 14.

94. The National Council for Comprehensive Care of Persons with Disabilities (CONAIPD) coordinates with law enforcement agencies by appointing a technical-legal liaison officer to the Commission on Legal Affairs. Likewise, support and counselling is provided to persons with disabilities who approach the Council to request support and aid in cases of rights violations. Sign language interpretation is also provided to deaf persons involved as victims or defendants in court cases.

Marriage and family relations

95. The Office of the Procurator General has submitted to the Legislative Assembly a proposed amendment to the exception established at the end of article 14 of the Family Code, the repeal of numbered paragraph 4 of article 90 of the Family Code, and the repeal of numbered paragraph 4 of article 93, also of the Family Code, with a view to making 18 the minimum age for marriage. The Office has issued a positive action measure to prevent solicitors (*procuradores auxiliares*) from marrying minors.

96. In August 2016, the Legislative Assembly requested ISDEMU's opinion regarding the proposed amendment to article 186 of the Family Code relating to the family status of individuals in connection with marriage, and regarding the provisions of article 122 of the Name of the Individual Act, in connection with the widow's last name.[44] In August 2016, ISDEMU remitted its opinion stating that it considered that the proposed amendments comply with the Constitution of the Republic and the Equality Act. At the same time, it established the need to revise articles 14 and 18 of the Family Code, which allow marriage between persons under

[42] Legislative Assembly of El Salvador. Legislative Decree No. 719, 30 May 1996. Available at: http://www.asamblea.gob.sv/eparlamento/indice-legislativo/buscador-de-documentos-legislativos/ley-del-regimen-especial-de-la-tierra-en-propiedad-de-las-asociaciones-cooperativas-comunales-y-comunitarias-campesinas-y-beneficiarios-de-la-reforma-agraria.

[43] CONAIPD National Survey of Persons with Disabilities, 2015. Available at: http://www.conaipd.gob.sv/index.php/documentos-de-interes/encuesta-pcd-2015.html.

[44] Legislative Assembly Note 00003645, dated 10 August 2016. Available at: http://www.isdemu.gob.sv/index.php?option=com_phocadownload&view=category&id=200%3Ainforme-cedaw&Itemid=234&lang=es.

18 years of age, when the requirements indicated in said articles are met, in order to provide comprehensive protection to every child.[45]

97. Marriages may be dissolved legally for the following reasons: by mutual consent of the parties, due to separation of the spouses for one or more consecutive years, or because the life of the spouses together is intolerable. The law established the following measures that, in most cases, protect the rights of women following the dissolution of the marriage: Special Alimony (article 107 of the Family Code); Compensation Allowance (article 113 of the Family Code); Protection of the Family Home (articles 46 and 120 of the Family Code); Special Protection to guarantee women a life free from violence; Protection of the Use of Rented Housing (article 39 of the LEIV); Protected Right of Habitation (article 41 of the LEIV).

98. In the case of non-marital unions, the Family Code contains regulations in articles 118 to 126: Declaration of a non-marital union; Declaration of Cohabitation. Both concepts defend the rights of the partner (in most cases, the woman), similar to the rights established in a marriage.

[45] ISDEMU Note dated 30 August 2016 Available at: http://www.isdemu.gob.sv/index.php?option=com_phocadownload&view=category&id=200%3Ainforme-cedaw&Itemid=234&lang=es.